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# CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

2 JACKSON PLACE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

*Expression of opinion in regard to the War of 1914-1918*

*Pamph.  
Sociol.  
C.*

February 16, 1915.



THE undersigned have been associated for some years in the execution of a trust to promote international peace and our duties have involved a continual survey of the efforts to that end throughout the world.

We wish to say to all friends of peace that the dreadful war now raging affords no just cause for discouragement, no discredit to past efforts, and no reason to doubt that still greater efforts in the future may be effective and useful.

The war itself is teaching the gospel of peace through a lesson so shocking and so terrible that the most indifferent can not fail to attend and understand it.


Not only have the destruction of life, the devastation and the suffering in the warring countries passed all experience, but the cessation of production, the closing of markets, the blocking of trade routes, the interruption of exchanges, have affected industry and caused ruin and poverty in all the peaceful countries of the world.

The universal interdependence of nations has been demonstrated and the truth forced upon every mind that the peace of all nations is the vital concern of every nation.

To cast our weak protest now among the tremendous forces that are urging on the great conflict would be futile; but the end of this war will come before long and then the great question will stand for answer:

Shall the lesson be forgotten; the sacrifice lost?

That question the belligerent nations only will have the power to answer; but every one in the world will be entitled to be heard upon it, for it will be a question of civilization, the most momentous of our era.



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It seems incredible that after this the stricken people will set their feet in the same old paths of policy and suspicion which must lead them again to the same result.

Finding expression through a great multitude of voices everywhere the general public opinion of mankind should influence the minds of the negotiators who settle the terms of peace and inspire them to a new departure in the establishment of justice as the rule of international relations.

While we must not be overconfident of our individual qualifications to point out the detailed methods through which the result may be accomplished, we may still advocate measures which seem practicable and appropriate to the purpose.

We can see that definite rules of national conduct should be agreed upon; that a court of competent jurisdiction should be established to judge of national conformity to those rules; and that new sanctions should be provided to compel respect for the judgments rendered.

Above all the motive and spirit of the new institutions should be clearly and fully, not the promotion of ambition or the extension of power, but the safeguarding of human rights and the perfection of individual liberty.

Toward this high end the courage and hope and conviction of the humblest citizen of the most distant land may contribute.

JOSEPH H. CHOATE  
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ELIHU ROOT  
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